Use of defective medical device in AIIMS

2254. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a defective medical device "bronchoscopes" was recalled from U.S. hospitals because it may have exposed hundreds of patients to dangerous bacteria;

(b) whether it is also a fact that a similar device is still being used in All India Institute of Medical Sciences;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the Government's plan in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) No, Sir. The All India Institute of Medical Sciences is not using Olympus Fibreoptic bronchoscope for the past nine years.

Decline in HIV/AIDS patients

2255. SHRI N. K. PREMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the number of HIV/AIDS affected patients has reduced considerably in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of the schemes in existence to create awareness of HIV/AIDS among the people?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (c) As per the analysis of HIV Sentinel Surveillance data 2001, it is estimated that there are 3.97 million HIV infections in the country. The estimated number of adults living with HIV in India for 1998, 1999 and 2000 were 3.5 million, 3.7 million and 3.8 million, respectively. The estimated number of added infections since the last round of surveillance is 110,000 compared with 160,000 in the previous year.

Awareness campaigns are an essential component of the prevention strategies adopted in the National AIDS Control Programme Phase-II The Information, Education & Communication (IEC) strategy in NACO is operationalised at two levels. At the national level, implementation of the IEC strategy involves political and media advocacy, social mobilization, creation of a supportive environment that reduces social stigma and discrimination for better access to services.

At the State level Information, Education and Communication (IEC) activities are being undertaken by the State AIDS Control Societies to respond to local priorities and communication in local languages.

Conference on cancer treatment

2256. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the outcome and the main discussions in the three-day conference on cancer treatement held in Delhi in February, 2002;

(b) whether it is a fact that only less than 30 per cent of the cancer patients are being cured in the country;

(c) if so, the reasons for such a state of affair; and

(d) the details of the amount sanctioned for research in cancer cure for the last five years and the outcome of such researches?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) This Ministry has neither organized for funded any such conference held in February, 2002.

(b) and (c) Cancer if detected early can be effectively treated. However, in India 2/3 of cancer cases are detected late and only 1/3 cancer cases are detected early. The main reason for such a state of affairs is lack of awareness about the disease on the part of the patients.